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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Alberto I. Roca

Serial No.: 09/358,103

Filed: July 21, 1999

For: Mutants of MAW Motifs of RecA  
Protein Homologs, Methods of  
Making Them, and Their Uses

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Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Christian L. Fronda

Atty. Docket: ROCA-01

RESPONSE TO FOURTH OFFICE ACTION

RECEIVED

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APR 05 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 12, 2000:

Petition for Extension of Time to Respond

Applicant respectfully petitions for a one-month extension of time to respond to the Fourth Office Action, and encloses the requisite fee for such extension with this Response, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136(a) and 1.17.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner amend claims 1-7, 15-20, and 27, as follows:

- 1 1. (Once amended) In an *E. coli* RecA protein or a protein having a MAW motif homologous
- 2 to the *E. coli* MAW motif, a manufactured RecA homolog protein mutant, wherein a naturally
- 3 occurring amino acid residue located within the protein's homolog of *E. coli* residues 40 to 65,